



COMMENTARY

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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Tire Recycling Fees Can't Be Rubber-Stamped

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By David Rolfe, KAP President. Cell: (204) 483-0502.

A new organization has rolled into Manitoba, and their purpose is to build a better recycling program for all of the tires in the province, big or small. The plan is based on a user-pay structure, so it looks likely that farmers across the province will soon be facing some point-of-purchase environmental levies on tires to cover these costs, much like we already do for oil filters.

We all know that there is a serious back-log of tires being stored on farms, because there is either nowhere to take them, or the cost of doing so is too high. The province does need a workable tire recycling program, but we also need to make sure that the levy that farmers pay is fair.

Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM), the group that will be overseeing this process, recently released a document that outlines the fee structure, and consultations are set to follow this summer. Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) has been working on what we think is a fair cost, based on the price that a farmer can bear and the frequency of agricultural tires going into the recycling system.

The numbers that TSM has put together in its document are not going to work for agriculture, based on all of the above reasons. At KAP's General Council meeting on July 12, farmer-delegates supported a proposal that would create a variable fee structure based on the size of the tires. Small agricultural non-drive tires would have a fee of \$4, 24" rim size and under drive tires would be \$9, and drive tires 24" and over would be \$15.

KAP fully supports a tire recycling program. However, the user fees must be fair, and we will continue to push Tire Stewardship Manitoba to ensure that this program works for farmers.

Farmers can have input on this process by visiting www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/waste/tires.html to view the plan. A comment form can also be downloaded and completed, so individual producers can have their say.